

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6927

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4117

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR RO IS

SUBJECT: AN UNOFFICIAL ROMANIAN VIEW OF THE ABBA EBAN VISIT

1. NICOLAE LUPU, FOREIGN AFFAIRS EDITOR OF SECOND LARGEST DAILY, ROMANIA LIBERA, EXPRESSED FOLLOWING VIEW OF EBAN TRIP ON EVENING OF NOVEMBER 8. WHILE NOT AUTHORITATIVE, IT PROBABLY REFLECTS MANNER IN WHICH GOR WOULD LIKE TO SEE VISIT PERCEIVED.

2. LUPU SAID THOSE WHO LIKE TO PORTRAY ROMANIAN FOREIGN POLICY AS MERE POSTURING WILL DISPARAGE THE EBAN TRIP BUT THOSE WHO UNDERSTAND ROMANIA'S INTENTIONS WILL PERCEIVE THAT IT WAS NOT INTENDED AS A DESPERATE GRAB FOR SPECTACULAR RESULTS BUT AS PART OF A LONG-TERM EFFORT.

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IT IS TRUE THAT THE ARABS AS WELL AS THE ISRAELIS WERE

INVITED TO BUCHAREST BUT THEIR APPEARANCE WAS NEVER CONSIDERED MORE THAN AN OUTSIDE POSSIBILITY. IF IT HAS OCCURRED, WELL AND GOOD, BUT, IF NOT, ROMANIA WAS PROVIDING BOTH AN INDIRECT MEANS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES AND A BACK-UP POSSIBILITY FOR CONTINUING EFFORTS AT ACCOMMODATION IF OTHER EFFORTS (LIKE THOSE OF THE US) RAN INTO DIFFICULTIES. LUPU FORESAW NO HIGH-LEVEL MISSIONS TO THE ARAB CAPITALS BUT INDICATED THAT ROMANIA'S IMPRESSIONS OF ISRAELI INTENTIONS, ITS DEGREE OF GOOD-WILL AND ITS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE OTHER SIDE WOULD BE CONVEYED TO THE ARABS IN QUITE WAYS.

3. LUPU ACKNOWLEDGED ALSO THAT THE VISIT SERVED THE MORE PAROCHIAL INTERESTS OF BOTH PARTIES. THE ISRAELIS OBVIOUSLY DESIRED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY HAD THE EAR OF OTHERS, PARTICULARLY A COMMUNIST COUNTRY, WHEN MANY WISHED TO SEE THEM ISOLATED AND THEY ALSO SHOWED AGAIN THEIR INTEREST IN DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS. (LUPU THOUGHT THE ARABS TACTICALLY WOULD NEVER THROW AWAY THAT PARTICULAR CARD UNTIL IT WAS LINKED WITH A FIRM UNDERSTANDING ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL). HE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ROMANIA ITSELF GAINED INDIRECT ADVANTAGES BY AGAIN DEMONSTRATING ITS INDEPENDENCE OF VIEW, ITS ATTACHMENT TO THE PRINCIPLE OF DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PARTIES AS THE ONLY PROPER METHOD TO RESOLVE DISPUTES AND ITS EVEN-HANDEDNESS TOWARD BOTH ISRAEL AND THE ARABS WHICH MIGHT ALLOW IT TO PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN THE FUTURE.

4. LUPU SAID WITH APPARENT SINCERITY THAT HE HAD HEARD NO RUMORS OF SOVIET TROOP DEMONSTRATIONS NEAR ROMANIA; HE CONSIDERED THEM UNLIKELY BECAUSE THEY WOULD MANIFESTLY BE BOTH RIDICULOUS AND INEFFECTIVE BUT HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY ALTOGETHER GIVEN SOVIET BEHAVIOR ON OTHER OCCASIONS.

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